

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A polishing apparatus comprising:
a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece;
at least three cleaning units for cleaning polished workpieces; and
at least one transfer robot for transferring said polished workpieces between said at least three cleaning units, said at least one transfer robot being capable of changing transfer routes between said at least three cleaning units.

Claim 2 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said polishing unit comprises a table having a polishing surface, and a top ring for holding the workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface to polish the workpiece.

Claim 3 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least three cleaning units are capable of cleaning said polished workpieces in at least three-stages.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one transfer robot is capable of transferring said polished workpieces between said cleaning units along two parallel transfer routes, and said at least three cleaning units are capable of cleaning said polished workpiece in at least two-stages.

Claim 5 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said cleaning units has a spin-drying function to dry said clean polished workpieces by spinning said clean polished workpieces.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one transfer robot comprises a plurality of robots.

Claim 7 (Original) A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece;
at least three cleaning units for cleaning polished workpieces; and
at least two robots for transferring said polished workpieces between said at least three cleaning units, said at least two robots being capable of changing transfer routes between said at least three cleaning units.

Claim 8 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said polishing unit comprises a table having a polishing surface, and a top ring for holding the workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface to polish the workpiece.

Claim 9 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said at least three cleaning units are capable of cleaning said polished workpieces in at least three-stages.

Claim 10 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said at least two robots are capable of transferring said polished workpieces between said cleaning units along two parallel transfer routes, and said at least three cleaning units are capable of cleaning said polished workpieces in at least two-stages.

Claim 11 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein at least two of said cleaning units have a spin-drying function to dry said clean polished workpieces by spinning said clean polished workpieces.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus comprising:

a loading/unloading unit for supplying a workpiece to be polished and receiving a polished and cleaned workpiece;

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece;

at least three cleaning units for cleaning polished workpieces, at least two of said three cleaning units having an identical cleaning function; and

at least one a plurality of transfer robots robot for transferring the workpieces, at least one of said plurality of transfer robots having two grippers which are vertically spaced from each other as a dry finger for holding the dry workpiece and a wet finger for holding the wet workpiece.

Claim 13 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said polishing unit comprises a table having a polishing surface, and a top ring for holding the workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface to polish the workpiece.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein ~~said at least one transfer robot~~ comprises a plurality of transfer robots; one of said plurality of transfer robots ~~has~~ having two grippers for transferring workpieces to and from a cassette placed in said loading/unloading unit.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein at least two of said cleaning units are capable of cleaning both surfaces of the workpiece.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus comprising:
a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece;
four cleaning units for cleaning polished workpieces at plural stages; ~~and~~
a first transfer robot for transferring said polished workpiece from said polishing unit to a first cleaning unit of said four cleaning units; and
a second transfer robot for transferring said polished workpiece between at least two of said cleaning units.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said polishing unit comprises a table having a polishing surface and a top ring for holding the workpiece against said polishing surface to polish the workpiece.

Claim 20 (Original) A polishing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a pusher for transferring the workpiece to and receiving the workpiece from said top ring.

Claims 21-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (Currently Amended) ~~A polishing apparatus according to claim 42;~~ A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece; and
a cleaning section comprising two cleaning units for cleaning a polished workpiece twice;
wherein one of said cleaning units cleans both surfaces of the workpiece, and the other of said cleaning units comprises a drying unit for drying the workpiece; and

wherein said one cleaning unit comprises a sponge for scrubbing both surfaces of the workpiece.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) ~~A polishing apparatus according to claim 42;~~ A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece; and
a cleaning section comprising two cleaning units for cleaning a polished workpiece twice;
wherein one of said cleaning units cleans both surfaces of the workpiece, and the other of said cleaning units comprises a drying unit for drying the workpiece; and

wherein at said the other cleaning unit, a cleaning liquid is supplied to the workpiece.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended) ~~A polishing apparatus according to claim 42;~~ A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece; and
a cleaning section comprising two cleaning units for cleaning a polished workpiece twice;
wherein one of said cleaning units cleans both surfaces of the workpiece, and the other of said
cleaning units comprises a drying unit for drying the workpiece; and
wherein said drying unit dries the workpiece by spin-drying.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) ~~A polishing apparatus according to claim 42;~~ A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing unit for polishing a workpiece; and
a cleaning section comprising two cleaning units for cleaning a polished workpiece twice;
wherein one of said cleaning units cleans both surfaces of the workpiece, and the other of said
cleaning units comprises a drying unit for drying the workpiece; and
wherein at said the other cleaning unit, an edge of the workpiece is held and the workpiece is rotated.

Claims 47-49 (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus comprising:

a first polishing unit for polishing primarily a workpiece;
a cleaning unit for ~~scrubbing~~ cleaning both sides of a polished workpiece; and
a second polishing unit for polishing secondarily the polished and ~~scrubbed~~ cleaned workpiece.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising a transfer robot for transferring the workpiece from a position of said primary polishing to a position of said ~~cleaning~~ scrubbing, and a position of said secondary polishing.